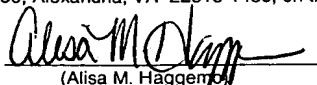


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: May 27, 2004

Signature:

  
(Alisa M. Haggerty)

Docket No.: 65678-0045  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Patrick O'Brien et al.

Application No.: 09/995,374

Confirmation No.: 3564

Filed: November 26, 2001

Art Unit: N/A

For: **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR  
BENCHMARKING ASSET  
CHARACTERISTICS**

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

**STATUS INQUIRY**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

It is respectfully requested that the attorney named below be advised of the status of the above-identified application. A communication dated 02/13/03 was received from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office indicating that a first Office Action should be received within 15 months. To date, no further communication has been received. Please advise us of when we might expect to receive an Office Action from the Patent and Trademark Office.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. 65678-0045 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: May 27, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



By

Michael B. Stewart

Registration No.: 36,018

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